

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 61  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee to study the delivery of mental health services.

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 448, Part 1 of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly created a special joint committee to study the delivery of mental health services in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1996, mental health services in Tennessee have been administered by TennCare Partners through contract with behavioral health organizations; and

WHEREAS, the special joint committee was appointed in the summer of 1996 and subsequently held hearings in Nashville with representatives of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, behavioral health organizations, mental health treatment providers, alcohol and drug abuse treatment providers, client advocacy groups and other knowledgeable parties present; and

WHEREAS, following its preliminary hearings, the committee identified issues concerning (1) the adequacy of funding of the TennCare Partners program, (2) the apparent decline in numbers of children with serious emotional disturbances served under TennCare Partners, (3) the adequacy of the community mental health "safety net" for the provision of treatment to persons needing mental health services, but who are less dysfunctional than those qualifying under TennCare Partners, (4) the adequacy of encounter and follow-up data from providers, BHOs, and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to permit the

**\*49683344\***

49683344

**\*002900\***

\*00290056\*

establishment of accountability and to make determinations of program effectiveness and success of treatment, and (5) the level of treatment and sufficiency of funding for treatment programs for substance abusers; and

WHEREAS, due to the short time allotted for the committee's work, the rapidly evolving administrative environment for the delivery of mental health services, and the complexity of the issues thus far identified, the committee requires additional time to perform its assigned responsibilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the special joint committee created by Part 1 of House Joint Resolution No. 448 of the 99th General Assembly to study the delivery of mental health services in Tennessee through TennCare Partners is hereby continued until January 6, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the membership of the special joint committee shall remain as constituted by HJR No. 448, Part 1; provided that the legislative members continue to serve as duly elected members of the General Assembly. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled in accordance with the original appointing authority pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 448, Part 1 of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall continue to study and make recommendations relative to the issues surrounding the delivery of mental health services as described herein, in addition to such other related issues that the committee may consider appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the special joint committee, upon the request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One-Hundredth

General Assembly no later than January 6, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.